



## State Representative Anthony J. D'Amelio

Dear Friend,

I hope you have enjoyed your summer as autumn is now here. It continues to be an honor and privilege to serve as your State Representative for the 71st District in the House of Representatives.

This report briefly covers some of the topics debated and passed during the regular legislative session, and I hope you will find it informative.

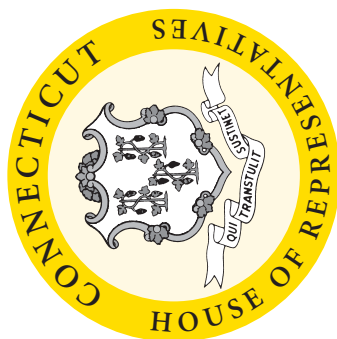
As always, if you have any concerns, questions or comments regarding state issues please don't hesitate to call or write.

Very truly yours,



Representative D'Amelio welcomes the Champion Crosby Boys' Basketball team to the House Chamber. They were honored at the State Capitol for their State Championship win and their perfect 27-0 record.

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State Representative  
**ANTHONY J. D'AMELIO**  
Proudly Serving the 71<sup>st</sup> District  
Middlebury ★ Waterbury



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## 2005 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



State Representative  
**ANTHONY J. D'AMELIO**  
Proudly Serving the 71<sup>st</sup> District  
Middlebury ★ Waterbury



Rep. D'Amelio works in his office during the 2005 legislative session.

PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

Voting for Fiscal Responsibility

This year’s budget increases spending 8.9%, cuts absolutely no spending, and exceeds and violates the publicly established Constitutional spending cap by \$110 million. It spends \$650 million of the \$700 million surplus, while including \$738 million in new taxes. In my mind it is completely inappropriate to increase taxes when we have a \$700 million surplus. For these reasons, I voted against the budget package.

Eminent Domain

The issue of the use of eminent domain came to the fore during the recent U.S. Supreme Court decision concerning New London. The court ruled that Connecticut's eminent domain laws are constitutional but stressed that the state could amend them. It is clear that action should be taken as quickly as possible considering the sweep and impact of this court decision. Unfortunately, the Democratic majority defeated an amendment aimed at limiting eminent domain. I joined many of my colleagues in pressing for a special session of the legislature to address this matter and to preserve the private property rights of Connecticut residents.

Patients’ Bill of Rights / Breast Cancer Screening

This year we passed legislation that requires hospitals to notify each patient of the rights he has under the hospital’s participation in Medicare. Notification must be made upon the patient’s admission, must be in writing, specifically state the rights identified in the Medicare conditions of participation and provide information on how the patient can file a complaint when he believes his rights have been violated, including contacting the Department of Public Health. As Ranking Member on the Insurance Committee, I assisted in guiding to passage legislation that requires insurance companies to cover the costs of an ultra sound for breast cancer screening.

Supporting Teachers

This year I co-sponsored House Joint Resolution 31, which would have required the state to fully fund teachers’ pension funds. While the state did move \$100 million from the surplus toward closing the gap in pension funding, the state still shorts the fund \$70 million over the next two years, and the resolution did not pass.

For Seniors and Veterans

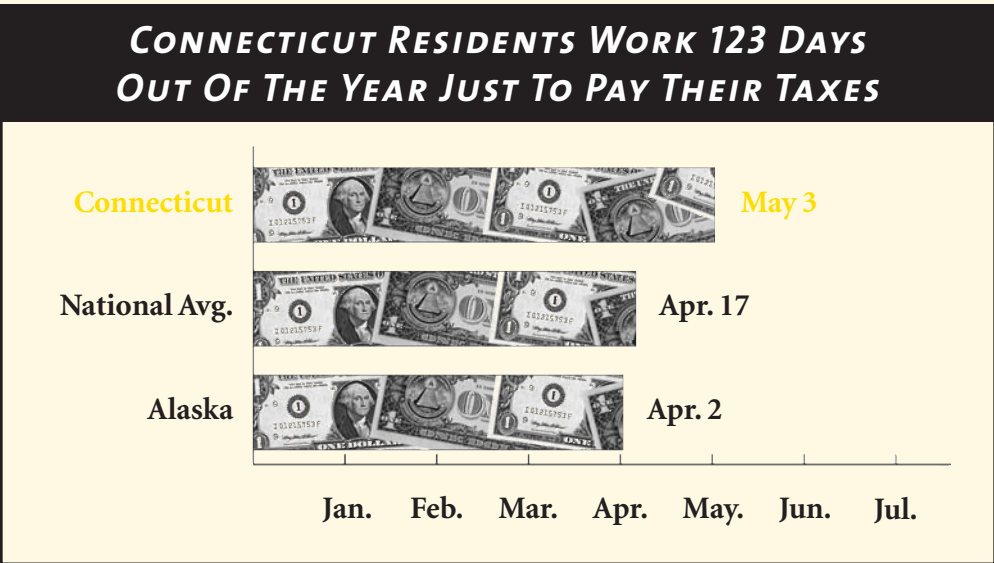
This year the legislature passed measures that provide discounted in-state tuition to military personnel stationed in Connecticut. We also provided a variety of additional benefits for members of the Connecticut National Guard. Money was allocated to implement the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program.

Transportation

The Governor’s proposal to implement a \$1.3 billion comprehensive transportation restructuring for the state was approved by the legislature this year, which is aimed at improving state highways and interstates, as well as upgrading public transportation.

Cell Phones, Pocket Bikes and Graduated Licensing

A ban was put in place on the use of hand-held cell phones while driving, and the legislature also passed laws that prohibit the use of pocket bikes on all public roads, and expand the required use of booster seats for children. New graduated licensing laws also went into effect October 1st, which increase the hours of behind-the-wheel training to twenty, and prohibits 16 and 17-year old licensed drivers of this age from driving between the hours of 12:00 a.m. to 5:00 a.m. unless they are travelling because of employment, school or religious activities, or medical necessity.



Rep. D'Amelio meets with students from the Gilmartin School on a visit to the Capitol.



Rep. D'Amelio speaks on the floor of the House during the 2005 Legislative Session.

Identity Theft

Due to the increased incidence of identity theft, the legislature passed a bill allowing consumers to place a freeze on their credit report and requires a credit bureau to place the freeze within five days. The credit freeze prohibits a creditor from giving information to any third party without the creditor’s permission.

Home Heating Oil Contracts

We passed a measure that prohibits prepaid home heating oil contracts from committing consumers to purchase oil for longer than 18 months, and requires contracts to provide that the contract price of undelivered heating oil owed on its end date must be reimbursed to the consumer within 30 days of that date, unless the dealer and consumer agree otherwise.

BUDGET ENDING JUNE 30, 2005  
THE 2005 GENERAL FUND AND  
THE SPECIAL TRANSPORTATION FUND  
TOGETHER SPEND \$14.4 BILLION

